

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mazza opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

“Sunshine Law” Announcement: I would like to announce and have placed in the minutes that adequate notice of this special meeting of the Union Township Committee has been provided in accordance with the “Open Public Meetings Act” by faxing to the Hunterdon Democrat and mailing electronically to the Courier News to be published and by posting such notice on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and by filing a copy of the notice with the Township Clerk”.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL - Present: Rob Haynes, Matt Severino, William Bischoff, Patricia Dziubek, Frank Mazza. Grace Brennan, CFO, Robert Swisher and Paul Freda, Twp. Auditors and Ella Malecki Ruta, Township Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

a. Discussion of 2008 Municipal Budget

- Mr. Swisher stated that this year’s increase in municipal portion of property taxes is going to be about 4.9 cents. To comply with state regulation of 4% cap on tax increase the Township has to cut about \$65,000 from the proposed budget. He also mentioned cuts in State Aid for municipalities below 10,000 population. After attending DCA meeting this morning, Mr. Swisher advised that the Township wait with budget introduction until all issues with the State Budget are resolved, one of them being reimbursement for State Police Services.
- Grace Brennan, CFO said that budget introduction would have to be rescheduled to a later date. She also said that now is the time to decide where to make the necessary cuts. Before we can work on that, we have to wait for certification of State Aid for 2008.
- Briefly discussed were shared services with neighboring municipalities and effects of those on municipal budget. COAH requirements were also mentioned and cost of compliance with new State regulations. At the end of discussion, the question was asked; “Where do we go from here” Committee came to mutual conclusion that no matter how much rural communities try to save or cut, the rural taxpayer would be burdened by increased property tax.

b. Other matters

- Mr. Haynes said he received a phone call from Debbie Hirt former Committee Member, who works for NJDOT. She offered free plants that had to be pulled out at reconstruction site of exit 15. Mr. Haynes would like permission from the Committee to accept the plants and then will decide where they would be placed. Committee agreed for the Road Dept. to pick them up when available.

At about 7:47 pm Mr. Swisher and Mr. Freda left the special budget meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – none at this time

At about 7:55 PM the following resolution was introduced for adoption:

**RESOLUTION #2008-45
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a public body to go into closed session during a public meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Union Township Committee has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Union will go into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12: Personnel Matters.

Mr. Haynes made a motion to adopt the above resolution. Mr. Bischoff seconded the motion. Vote – Ayes; Mr. Haynes, Mr. Severino, Mr. Bischoff, Mrs. Dziubek and Mr. Mazza. Motion carried.

Mrs. Dziubek made a motion to return to the regular meeting. Mr. Severino seconded the motion. Vote – Ayes; Mr. Haynes, Mr. Severino, Mr. Bischoff, Mrs. Dziubek and Mr. Mazza. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Township Committee at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bischoff, seconded by Mr. Severino. Motion carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:59 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ella Malecki Ruta, RMC
Municipal Clerk